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E arrived early this evening. Her birthday was yesterday, but we celebrated it tonight, dining well in the grill room at the Crillon.

Prices of food in Paris are high, redeemed somewhat by the exceptional quality of the cooking. For a meal, with non notable wines one must reckon on close to ten dollars a head in the next to best restaurants.

November 29, 1962 - Thursday

To the Embassy this morning for a conference with Joe Fowler, Under Secretary of the Treasury. That is a well run organization from a Civil Service standpoint. I saw Don McGrew, the competent Treasury representative last night. He told me he had been here for fifteen years.

Yesterday, I had marvelous tripes à la mode de Caen for lunch. The French are the only people, except perhaps the Chinese, who know how to utilize all portions of a pig or hog. Last night, I ate grilled lamb kidneys, a dish at which the French also excel.

There is still astonishment in Paris over de Gaulle's great victory. Chip told me, confidentially, when he was in London that the President had invited de Gaulle to come to America; since then, I have heard nothing of it.

While travelling, and by sitting up late at night, I have done some reading, including Lt. Col. Oreste Pinto's Spycatcher Omnibus, Jusserand's School for Ambassadors, John Russell's Paris, and, ~~once again, Harold Nicholson's Diplomacy~~.

Joe Fowler is going to London this afternoon. He is concerned over our balance of payments problems. Our situation continues to deteriorate far more than Treasury estimates [redacted] predicted. Further ~~Some~~ curtailment of military expenditures abroad is difficult unless we withdraw troops, [illegible] we increase exports considerably,

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From Bruce.

Deptel 2957.

There is nothing novel in fact that the majority of the British press and other British information media are ~~extremely~~ sturdily, insular and on certain subjects anti-American. This attitude has been persistent and consistent for years.

I. The subjects which most often inspire criticism are (1) Economic, (2) Foreign policy.

~~As regards~~ Re the former, the motivation is largely (a) jealousy of our great wealth and power ~~which~~ while those of the UK have been steadily declining, and (b) resentment of our often successful competition. (The last is best illustrated in the area of weapons purchasing, where the British claim they have lost important orders especially from West Germany because of undue US Governmental pressures on behalf our own suppliers.)

II. ~~As regards~~ Re foreign policy, here again jealousy, reactions of wounded pride, realization of the real deterioration in Britain's international power position play part. They reflect a widespread public refusal to admit that the UK is not a first class power, comparable in influence, if only the Government would skilfully exercise its authority, to the US and USSR. This opinion is not, of course, shared by realistic politicians, ~~and the better informed civilians~~ and military.

In addition, almost regardless of the standard of intelligence of those who are articulate on such matters, there has long been a fear here ~~that we~~ might use our nuclear capability unwisely and rashly, or else have to ~~revert~~ resort to it through escalation.

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